Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035509 ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-06 ISO-00 ES-01 /012 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FWISNER/USUN:AHOLLOWAY:CB APPROVED BY AMB.ANDREW YOUNG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 035509

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, SHUM

SUBJECT: COMMENT ON HELEN SUZMAN

REF: CAPE TOWN 231

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. YOU SHOULD TELL COLIN EGLIN THAT THE REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A CRITICISM OF HELEN SUZMAN. AMBASSADOR YOUNG HOLDS HELEN SUZMAN IN HIGH REGARD AND HAS LONG ADMIRED HER BRAVE AND FORTHRIGHT STANDS ON SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL PROBLEMS. SHE HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN PROMOTING PEACEFUL CHANGE AND HER DETERMINATION AND HIGH PRINCIPLES ARE RECOGNIZED BY ALL THOSE WHO HAVE FOLLOWED HER CAREER. FOR YEARS, HER COURAGEOUS AND LONELY STAND IN THE FACE OF BITTER PERSONAL AND POLITICAL ATTACKS HAS EARNED HER WELL DESERVED ADMIRATION.

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2. THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA, HOWEVER, LIES IN THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO HOLD POWER.

A CHANGE OF POLICY ON THEIR PART IS REQUIRED IF SOUTH AFRICA IS TO REFORM ITS POLICIES OF INSTITUTIONALIZED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. AMERICAN INFLUENCE, THEREFORE, MUST ALSO BE DIRECTED TOWARDS THOSE IN THE

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WHO ARE ABLE TO MAKE AND CARRY OUT DECISIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE WHICH HELEN SUZMAN PLAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA. THOSE INDIVIDUALS LIKE HELEN SUZMAN WHO STAND IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUR SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, LEGISLATORS, INSTRUCTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE035509
Document Source: Concept Co

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: FWISNER/USUN:AHOLLOWAY:CB

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770055-1191

Format: TEL From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770235/aaaabere.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 2ce1a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 231

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3304213 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: COMMENT ON HELEN SUZMAN

TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, SF, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (SUZMAN, HELEN)

To: CAPE TOWN

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ce1a1c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009